

# R E V I E W.

Saturday, January 10. 1713.

I Did not think it possible that any Body could be against improving our Trade, because they do not like the Peace; but I am told there are some People, who, because they could not break the Measures for making this Peace, are unwilling we should thrive under it when it is made: I will not for their Sakes say who these are, I thank God, I am none of that Number; but as I am for reconciling Parties and Breaches, rather than widening them, I shall expose them no farther at this time, than to say, That, *such there are*, I am sorry for it.

The Reason why I mention this now, is, from a Ballying Letter I received Yesterday, upon my turning this Paper to the Subject of Trade, and speaking twice of the *African* Company, which however rude upon me, I publish just in the civil Style it came in, —As follows,

Review,

“**Y**OU are a Damn'd Rascal; Do you think to persuade us that you are not writing for the Ministry, because you are writing upon Trade? —Don't we know it is the Ministries Interest to have the People persuaded that Trade shall flourish and encrease after the Peace? I tell you, it is the Interest of every honest Man to ruin Trade, and to hasten Things on to that Confusion, which is now our only Remedy, and that the great Maxim of our Circumstances at this time is, *the Worse the Better*. For this Reason, your *African* Trade may go to the Devil; the Company were Fools they did not sell it to the *Dutch*, and I wish they had: Nothing can save us now but the Pretender, and he only by this one Thing; That his coming will set us all together by the Ears, and then we shall beat this New Gang of Rogues, not out of their Seats only, but out of the World too; and you shall be sure to be hang'd, you Dog you.

Cicero.

I had not given you this obliging Letter, for as I told you, I shall meddle with no Parties in this matter, if it had not mentioned the *African* Trade, which I own I am very solicitous for, and I shall give no Answer to the Particulars of it here, but as it refers to the *African* Company; as for the Ill Language it deserves no Reply.

No question, if it be, as this Mad man says, that every honest Man should be for ruining our Trade, then the *African* Company ought to have been pull'd

to Pieces, and the Trade ought, long ago to have gone to the *Dutch*, or the *D*——l, as he calls it, and as a great deal of it did, by the Perplexities which the Company was reduc'd to——And this is the Reason why I Print this mad Letter, and joyn the Discourse about it to my Arguments for the *African* Trade; my Observations from it are as follow,

1. That no body can be an Enemy to the *African* Company, but who are so, because they are Enemies to the whole Trade of the Nation.
2. That the Ruine of the *African* Trade would have been no small Blow to our General Commerce.
3. That if the Company had been overthrown, the Trade must have been lost.
4. That if the Company had been overthrown, and the Trade lost to us, the *Dutch*, who were next Oars, would have had it.

Enough has been said formerly to make out the two last, and the two first are most natural from the Worthy Letter above; those whose Aim is at the Ruin of our Trade, and the General Confusion, must needs be Enemies to the *African* Company. Those who are Enemies to the *African* Company are so far, by natural consequence, desirous of the General Ruin of our Trade.

I must confess, I do not know any thing in Trade that could befall us, I mean, that was ever probable to befall us, that could be so great a Blow to Trade in general, as the Ruin of the *African* Trade in particular; and those who know how far our Plantation Trade is Blended and Interwoven with the Trade to *Africa*, and that they can no more be parted than the Child and the Nurse, need have no time spent to convince them of this; The Case is as plain as Cause and Consequence: Mark the Climax. No *African* Trade, no Negroes no Negroes; no Sugars, Gingers, Indicos, &c. no Sugars, &c. no Islands; no Islands, no Continent; no Continent, no Trade; that is to say, farewell all your *American* Trade, your *West-India* Trade, for it is that I am speaking of, it is all gone at once, *Virginia* excepted; we need trouble our selves no more with the *West-Indies*, after the loss of the Trade to *Africa*.

These things I might enlarge on, but I am for sparing your Labour of reading, where Nature and Reason make things plain: The Reason of my mentioning this now, is from the fine Letter above, and the Politicks of its Author; He says, The Ministry would



would fain have the People persuaded, that Trade shall flourish after the Peace — I'll put it another way; which tho' it be may harder to bring to pass, they are more obliged to do — *my Motion is this*, That the Ministry or Government are obliged to take all possible Measures to make Trade flourish after the Peace.

Nothing is more certain, than that Trade has suffered during the War; The *African* Trade is a *Memento Mori* to the rest, and a known Instance of it, the Companies suffering are too publick to be hid; and if they had not been so great, perhaps the separate Traders had not flattered themselves with so much assurance of their downfall.

That Peace and Trade are old Comrades, and seldom part, is true; but after such a long and destructive War, Trade has lost so much Blood, and is so Weak and Languishing, that none can say it does not want Help. What follows this, the Government then is, and must be the support of Trade, or else Trade, which is the Supply of the Government, sinking for want of that Support, the Government will suffer with it.

This made me say, in my last on this Subject, That the Government will Support and Encourage the *African* Company, and for this I mention it again; I may, without Offence, have said they MUST do it — The *African* Trade is absolutely necessary to be Supported, and without the Company, no *African* Trade is Practicable, as I have often proved: And therefore no wise Administration in *Britain*, but must be a Friend to the *African* Company, and no-body will be against the Company, but such as act from the Principle in the Letter above, (*wiz.*) That Trade ought to be ruin'd; That things may be brought into Confusion; and the *African* Company being overthrown, would have been a great step to it.

I am fully persuaded the Government will take no Offence at me, in saying, That while they make the Prosperity of our general Commerce, their Care, as they must certainly do, who have the publick Good at Heart; They cannot cease with the utmost Zeal and Concern, to Preserve, Encourage, Support and Protect the *African* Company and their Trade: The Company is a Patient newly restor'd, a wounded Limb newly healed; The Government is the Physician of the Nation's Trade; They are as much obliged to preserve the Health, and recover the Strength of this Patient, as they were to heal its Wound, and cure the Disease it was afflicted with.

If the Government should be supposed to Discountenance or Discourage the Trade of this Consequence, and under such fainting Circumstances, as this is newly recovered from; and any Disaster follows, as must necessarily be, what Convulsions must several other Parts of our Commerce feel! What strange doings must we have in our Plantations! What a stagnation of Trade, what loss, what Inconveniences should our whole *West-India* Interest feel! In short, it would be a Satyr on the Govern-

ment, to say, or suppose they should not, in Reasonable and Just things that can be expected, Encourage and Support the present *African* Company in their Trade, in their just Rights, and in a happy Prospect they have of establishing that Trade for the general Advantage. It would be to affront the Ministry to suggest it; it would be telling, that That either they had no Concern for Trade, or did not understand the true Interest of it.

If it were nothing, but that the Measures taken for establishing the Company, are founded upon an Honest, Fair, and very Honourable Scheme for Satisfying, and making good the Interest of the Companies Creditors, as well as the Stockholders and Adventurers; and that Hundreds of Families I believe I had been within compass if I had said *Tens of thousands*, will now have their Property preserved, which would otherwise have been Robb'd and Plunder'd; for however it had been done in *Law*, it had been done in Kind; I had been right in saying the Government is engaged for the Support of the Company, for all just Governments take themselves concerned to Secure and Preserve the Estates of their Subjects; and it was this just Consideration which carried the Bill in Parliament for their Establishment.

But when this Property of the Subject joins with the publick Interest, with the safety of our General Trade, and with the best, nay only way of Securing the particular Trade it self, which allow'd to be most Necessary: This must make it a Question, That every Administration that regards the publick Good, will Forster, Nourish, and Encourage the *African* Trade: It must be so. Reason and Nature of the thing makes it impossible, rationally speaking, to be otherwise; and I should affront the Government, if I should suggest it can be otherwise.

From this I draw two Observations, with which I close this Case.

1. The Enemies of the Company have not left them but to Despair, and give it over; they will meddle at all they must now Embark against the Stream of Common Interest, against the Government, against Reason, and against Right, and, I dare say, against the common Opinion of the Nation; for Reason at last prevail'd. and the Nation has quite other Notions of the *African* Company, than they had before.
2. It can no more be a Doubt, whether the Companies Interest shall be supported, or whether they shall Flourish and Prosper in their present New Settlement, since, not the Government only, but the whole Nation, seems engaged to support and defend them: And if they could stand before, in the Prospect of all the insuperable Difficulties which were before them, Something must befall them if they Miscarry out of the common way of Nature, of which our next.